

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 11th August 1894.

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## URIYA PAPERS.

Nil.

## ASSAM PAPERS.

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A land acquisition case in Assam ...	ib.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.					
Monthly.					
1	" Ghosak " ... ..	Khulna ... ..	....	1st August 1894.	
2	" Māsik " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	294		
Fortnightly.					
3	" Bankura Darpan " ... ..	Bankura ... ..	397		
4	" Kasipur Nivāsi " ... ..	Kasipur, Barisāl ... ..	300		
5	" Ulubaria Darpan " ... ..	Ulubaria ... ..	720		
Weekly.					
6	" Banganivāsi " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	8,000	3rd ditto.	
7	" Bangavāsi " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	20,000	4th ditto.	
8	" Burdwān Sanjivani " ... ..	Burdwan ... ..	310	31st July 1894.	
9	" Charumihir " ... ..	Mymensingh ... ..	.....	31st ditto.	
19	" Chinsura Vārtāvaha " ... ..	Chinsura ... ..	500	5th August 1894.	
11	" Dacca Prākāsh " ... ..	Dacca ... ..	2,400	5th ditto.	
12	" Education Gazette " ... ..	Hooghly ... ..	950	3rd ditto.	
13	" Hindu Ranjikā " ... ..	Boalia, Rajshahi ... ..	248		
15	" Hitavādī " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	3,000	3rd ditto.	
16	" Murshidabad Hitaishi " ... ..	Murshidabad ... ..	....	1st ditto.	
16	" Murshidābād Pratimudhi " ... ..	Berhampore ... ..	.....		
17	" Pratikār " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	608	3rd ditto.	
18	" Rangpur Dikprākāsh " ... ..	Kakinia, Rangpur ... ..	170		
19	" Sahachar " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	800-1,000	1st ditto.	
20	" Samaj-o-Sāhitya " ... ..	Garibpore, Nadia ... ..	1,000		
21	" Samaya " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	4,000	3rd ditto.	
22	" Sanjivani " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	4,000	4th ditto.	
23	" Sansodhini " ... ..	Chittagong ... ..	.....		
24	" Sāraswat Patra " ... ..	Dacca ... ..	(300-400)	4th ditto.	
25	" Som Prākāsh " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	800	6th ditto.	
26	" Sudhakar " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	2,000	3rd ditto.	
27	" Vikrampur " ... ..	Lauhajangha, Dacca ... ..	600	2nd ditto.	
Daily.					
28	" Banga Vidyā Prākāshikā " ... ..	Calcutta ... ..	500	2nd to 4th & 6th to 9th August 1894.	
29	" Dainik-o-Samāchār Chandrikā " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	1,200	5th, 6th, 8th & 9th August 1894.	
30	" Samvād Prabhākar " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	1,435	3rd, 4th & 6th to 9th August 1894.	
31	" Samvād Purnachandrodaya " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	300	3rd, 4th & 6th to 9th August 1894.	
32	" Sulabh Dainik " ... ..	Ditto ... ..	3,000	3rd, 4th & 6th to 8th August 1894.	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
33	" Dacca Gazette " ... ..	Dacca ... ..	500-600		



No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
HINDI.				
Monthly.				
34	"Bihar Bandhu "	Bankipore	500	For July 1894.
35	"Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Samāchār Patrika."	Darjeeling	500	
Weekly.				
36	"Aryāvarta "	Dinapore	750	2nd August 1894. 6th ditto. 4th ditto.
37	"Bhārat Mitra "	Calcutta	2,500	
38	"Hindi Bangavāsī "	Ditto	10,000	
29	"Uchit Vakta "	Ditto	.....	
PERSIAN.				
Weekly				
40	"Hublul Mateen "	Calcutta	.....	
URDU.				
Weekly.				
41	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch "	Bankipore	750	2nd ditto. 8th ditto.
42	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide "	Calcutta	300	
43	"General and Gauhariāsfī "	Ditto	410	
44	"Mehre Monawar "	Muzaffarpur	150	
URIYA.				
Monthly.				
45	"Asha "	Cuttack	80	97
46	"Pradīp "	Ditto	.....	
47	"Samyabadi "	Ditto	.....	
48	"Shikshabandhu "	Ditto	.....	
49	"Taraka and Subhavārtā "	Ditto	.....	
50	"Utkalprabhā "	Mayurbhunj	.....	
Weekly.				
51	"Dipaka "	Cuttack	.....	203 420 450
52	"Samvad Vāhika "	Balasore	.....	
53	"Uriya and Navasamvād "	Ditto	.....	
54	"Utkal Dīpikā "	Cuttack	.....	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
Forthnigtly.				
55	"Paridarshak "	Sylhet	480	For the first fortnight of Sravan, 1301 B.S.
56	"Silchar "	Silchar	250	
57	"Srihattavāsī "	Sylhet	.....	







## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 2nd August says that the Amir's absence from his dominions will, of course, give Russia a chance of trying to penetrate further into the Afghan frontiers, and in that case there will be nothing to assure the safety of his kingdom. Besides, Afghanistan itself is a scene of rebellions and quarrels.

The question of the Amir's proposed visit to England.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE.  
Aug. 2nd, 1894.

It was the Amir's personal influence that prevented the Girghies from raising the standard of revolt. The hostilities of Umra Khan and his numerous successes have at present rendered Afghanistan perfectly restless. The Amir has never had a quiet time of it since he ascended the throne of Kabul. And it is his courage and rare presence of mind alone that has up to this time kept the fearless and restless Afghan tribes cowed at his feet.

Considering that English statesmen themselves are well aware of the existing insecure condition of Afghanistan, a man with the least common sense will see that there must be some special reason for inviting the Amir to England. One may ask what the special reason is which makes the British Government call the Amir to England when his presence is so urgently required in his own country. The answer must be one of the two following, namely either the Amir's visit to England is the one means which will ensure the security of his dominions from external and internal hostility; or some political motive has come into existence which induces England to invite the Amir to visit her, even at the sacrifice of His Highness' friendship.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* of the 31st July refers to the police investigation into the death of Abdul Sheikh, a constable of the Mymensingh town police, and remarks as follows:—

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 31st, 1894.

Suspicious death of a constable in Mymensingh. In this case the dead body was in such an advanced state of decomposition, that the cause of death could not be ascertained by *post-mortem* examination. Now, the man died on the 10th July last, and the District Superintendent of Police received the news of his death on the 13th, and yet, for some unknown reason, the body was not sent for *post-mortem* examination before the 20th. What was the cause of such delay? It is clear from the letter addressed to this paper by a correspondent that, on the 6th July, one Syam Sundar gave information to the head-constable of the town that some people had assaulted Abdul and taken him to a prostitute's house. If this statement be true, how is it that the head-constable made no entry on the subject in the thana diary? There ought to be a thorough enquiry into the case.

3. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st August complains of the inefficiency of the Bankura police, inasmuch as they have not yet succeeded in tracing the culprits in the Mathuradanga and Khamarbera dacoity cases. Pyari Babu, Sub-Inspector of the sadar thana, has been more than once rewarded by Government for making successful investigations of many dacoity cases, and what objection was there to put him on the track of the culprits in the present cases?

BANKURA DARPAN,  
Aug. 1st, 1894.

4. The same paper says that one Bipin Meta, a resident of Ganti within the jurisdiction of the Kotulpur thana in the Bankura district, had complained that the daroga, the writer-constable, the head-constable, and a constable of the Kotulpur thana, and the talukdars of the village had killed his mother, Dhani Metani, at the thana, on the 31st May last. The case was tried by the Deputy Magistrate of Vishnupur, but the accused were discharged for want of evidence. The view taken was that the woman was sick and died at the thana, where she had been taken to give evidence. But why did the Sub-Inspector take her to the thana, when she was in such a critical condition of health?

BANKURA DARPAN.

5. The *Pratihar* of the 3rd August says that in deciding the question of transferring the Sujaganj thana in Berhampore from its present position to the river bank, the first thing to be considered is the convenience of the

PRATIHAR,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

The proposed removal of the Sujaganj thana in Berhampore in the Murshidabad district.



public. It is difficult to see what purpose will be served by removing the thana from a quarter inhabited by bad characters, and in which thefts occur in broad daylight, to a better and quieter quarter. The prostitutes' quarter in Borhampore is now very near the thana, and the part of the town close to Sujaganj becoming gradually depopulated, horrible crimes are often committed in places like Jhankhola, Vishnupur, Dayanagar, and Jhingepara. All this makes the removal of the thana from Sujaganj extremely inadvisable. It is true the removal of the thana to the river bank will furnish good quarters to the thana men, but should Government, in these days of financial difficulty, incur the expenditure of constructing a new thana building by demolishing the old one? It is to be hoped that the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police will reconsider the question.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 4th, 1894.

6. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 4th August says that the amalgamation of the Jivannagar thana with the Krishnaganj thana in the Nadia district, has placed the villages in the northern extremity of the former at a distance of some 16 miles from the present thana. The chaukidars will be seriously inconvenienced in giving their attendance at the thana, and crime will increase in the remote villages.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 4th, 1894.

7. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th August has been astonished to hear of a circular issued by the Inspector-General of Police, North-Western Provinces, prohibiting the employment of *Kurmis* and other low-caste Hindus in the Police Department. Is the English Government, too, going to observe caste distinctions in securing men for its services? Low-caste Hindus will have no hope of ameliorating their condition, if Government too looks down upon them. The *Kurmis* may be people of a low caste; but there are, as a matter of fact, zamindars, traders, and Government contractors among them. If the authorities exclude the *Kurmis* from the Police Department, they are bound to give their reasons for so doing. It is hoped that some member of the Legislative Council of the North-Western Provinces will try to get at the real motive of Government in making this exclusion.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 6th, 1894.

8. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 6th August says that the Deputy Commissioner of Sitapur in Oudh kept in custody one Lalta Pursad for trying to take out a marriage procession, and did not discharge him till he had given personal recognizance for Rs. 100.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 6th, 1894.

9. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th August says that two constables in Barisal were fined Rs. 20 each for having assaulted a school-boy during the late *Rath Jātrā* festival. The Deputy Magistrate who tried the case remarked in his judgment that he inflicted this light punishment in consideration of the fact that the constables would certainly be departmentally punished with dismissal. The constables have not, however, been dismissed. Mr. Luttmann-Johnson prohibited the Deputy and other subordinate Magistrates from criticising the conduct of the police in their judgments. But, in this case, he has not dismissed the two constables, though they have been convicted of an offence.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 31st, 1894.

10. The *Charu Mihir* of the 31st July says that it has now become difficult for people in the district of Mymensingh to get back the fines which are ordered on appeal to be refunded. The following case will prove this:—Dilu Mandal and seven others were fined Rs. 25 each last year. In the month of December 1893, the fines were ordered to be refunded to them, but they have not up to this time got back the money. Similar delay also occurs in the payment of compensations ordered by the courts. A compensation of Rs. 15 was directed to be paid to Dengu Mandal in September last, but the man has not yet got his money. This irregularity in the office of Mr. Earle, Magistrate, is certainly astonishing. It is hoped he will take steps to put an end to it.



11. As a proof of the feeling of dislike with which Hindu officers look upon the employment of Musalmans in the public service, the *Sudhakar* of the 3rd August instances the conduct of Babu J. N. Lahiri, Subdivisional Officer of Nator, who has turned out all the Musalman apprentices who were admitted in the subdivisional office by Maulvi Fazlul Karim, and who is always on the look-out for an opportunity to suspend or dismiss his Musalman peshkar. The Babu is also trying his best to have the local Musalman Sub-Registrar, Maulvi Tamizuddin Ahmed, dismissed or transferred, in order that he may be able to give the post to the son-in-law of the local Munsif, who is a friend of his. There is little hope that the District Magistrate will be long able to disregard the recommendations of the subdivisional officer. The only ground for hoping that he may be able to do so is that he is an Englishman, and that an Englishman possesses strength of character.

SUDHAKAR  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

There are many subdivisional officers of this type. What hope is there, then, of the employment of Musalmans in public offices; or of their retaining their posts, even if they be fortunate enough to be so employed?

12. The same paper has the following in connection with the forced resignation by Babu Giris Chandra Banerji of Kurseong of his office of Honorary Magistrate (Weekly Report for 4th August 1894, paragraph 16):—

SUDHAKAR.

The authorities in the Kurseong affair. We should never be able to believe that the noble English character could be so far sullied, and that educated Englishmen could be so mean. But we are bound to admit that natives themselves are to blame for this deterioration of the English character. We have learnt from trustworthy sources that many native officers flatter English officials in a most servile manner, with a view to obtaining big posts. This is what has made Englishmen as staunch advocates of caste as the Brahman; and that is why they consider it hateful to serve with natives on the same Bench. It is not likely that the Lieutenant-Governor or his Secretaries will be untainted by this vice. If they had been free from that taint, Mr. Cotton would have taught Mr. Nolan a lesson, and maintained the prestige of the Lieutenant-Governor, and tried to reform the Anglo-Indian character. Natives first teach Englishmen to be haughty, and then cry if they are kicked by Englishmen. We believe that as soon as the natives acquire strength of character, this defect in the Anglo-Indian character will disappear.

13. The *Samay* of the 3rd August refers to the case published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in which a subdivisional officer is said to have horsewhipped people who had come to his court on business, not excepting even the mukhtars, when he was holding his court in a mufassal thana, and requests the authorities to make enquiries into the matter, and to punish the Deputy Magistrate if he really behaved himself in this manner.

SAMAY,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

14. The *Pratikar* of the 3rd August says that the transfer of the whole Lalbagh Munsifi to the Sadar will cause serious public inconvenience. Bhagawangola was formerly part of the Goas Azimganj Munsifi, and in the present scheme of amalgamation, it should be transferred to Azimganj.

PRATIKAR,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

The Lalbagh Munsifi in the Murshidabad district. In this connection the writer would draw the District Judge's attention to the improper or anomalous distribution of almost all chaukis in the Murshidabad district. If he is at all anxious to make changes in the local jurisdictions of any munsifis, he should completely alter the present jurisdictions of all the munsifis in the district. The transfer of a certain portion of the Kandi Munsifi to the Sadar will be very convenient to the public.

15. The same paper says that at present the greater part of the criminal work in the Murshidabad district is done by Honorary Magistrates. This arrangement saves Government some money, but it is not very convenient to the public. The trial of cases under

PRATIKAR.

Administration of criminal justice in the Murshidabad district. section 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in particular, should not be entrusted to Honorary Magistrates, for the Honorary Magistrates being unwilling to work more than two hours a day, the trial becomes, by reason of the number of witnesses in such cases being usually large, very lengthy, and therefore very expensive.



HITAVADI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

16. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd August says that Babu Giris Chandra Banerji of Kurseong is a quiet, inoffensive gentleman, who does not like quarrelling. It is clear from the official correspondence relating to his appointment as Honorary Magistrate at Kurseong, which was published in the last number of this paper (Weekly Report for week ending 4th August, paragraph 16), that he has resigned his office in order to make peace with the European community. So it is unnecessary to publish in this paper his and his friends' letters on the subject. The Lieutenant-Governor has himself admitted that Giris Babu is fit for the post of Honorary Magistrate, and yet he has removed the Babu from the post, because he does not like to incur the displeasure of white men.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

17. The same paper refers to the new rules relating to the appointment of Cantonment Magistrates, and remarks as follows:—

Mr. Marson, the Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore.

Under these rules, officers possessing less than five years' experience in the service should not be appointed as Magistrates of 1st class cantonments. Now, the cantonment of Barrackpore is a 1st class cantonment, but Mr. Marson, who is in charge of it, is an officer possessing less than five years' experience. So the public may naturally ask, is the new rule intended to secure Mr. Marson's removal from the Barrackpore cantonment? Mr. Marson has just now become somewhat unpopular in Anglo-Indian circles, and it will be no wonder if the enforcement of the new rule should give rise to suspicions in the public mind.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 4th, 1894.

18. According to the *Bangavasi* of the 4th August, the forced resignation of his Honorary Magistracy by Babu Giris Chandra Banerji of Kurseong, shows to what meanness the authorities can resort when the interests of even some traders of their own nationality are concerned. This is certainly very surprising; but it is idle to expect justice and truthfulness when the interests of the rulers and the ruled clash.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 4th, 1894.

19. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th August says that Mr. Konstam, Officiating Joint-Magistrate of Hajipur in Bihar, has been promoted to the Purnea Magistrateship. But it was in reference to the proceedings of this Magistrate in a certain case that the Chief Justice made the enquiry whether they were proceedings taken by a constable. So, the Magistrate whose conduct has been compared by the Chief Justice to that of a common constable, has been thought by the Bengal Government fit for the post of a District Magistrate! It seems that, under the present régime, that officer gets the speediest promotion who is censured by the press. Bengal was never before under such a régime.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Aug. 5th, 1894.

20. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 5th August says that since Mr. Faulder took charge of the office of Magistrate of Dacca, the writer has been to his cutcherry for three days at 2 P.M., with the object of seeing how he administers justice. But, unfortunately, Mr. Faulder did not come to his cutcherry even at that time. The writer also heard that he holds his cutcherry with closed doors. This practice is likely to cause inconvenience to many,—not to say that a court of justice should always be open to the public. But the writer will not object to it if Mr. Faulder has recourse to it in order not to allow any outside noise and bustle to distract his attention.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 5th, 1894.

21. The *Dainik o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th August says it is painful to read the letter which Mr. Cotton has written in the Kurseong case. The secret letter has been published in the *Hitavadi* newspaper. It would have been well if it had not been published. Those letters or other documents ought not to be published, the perusal of which would be calculated to diminish the people's *bhakti* for the Government. Both Sir Charles Elliott and Mr. Cotton have had to admit that there were no just grounds for removing Giris Chandra from the Honorary Magistracy, and that the European residents of Kurseong, too, had no reasonable grounds to complain of his appointment. And yet Giris Chandra has been told to resign in order to make matters straight, that is to say, in order to please the European residents. This has been stated in Mr. Cotton's own letter. But an official statement like this—such an official confession of wrong-doing—is



not good. Mr. Cotton would certainly have written the letter more carefully if he could have even dreamt that his letter would be published in a newspaper.

Government has to write many such letters for the sake of Europeans, because Government has often to be involved in troubles like this. Very great danger!—great difficulty and trouble—if justice is not kept inviolate! Cannot Government by any means do its work, keeping justice and impartiality intact?

The writer does not feel concerned for either Babu Giris Chandra or the office of an Honorary Magistrate. The writer does not understand how these Honorary Magistrateships confer any honour. Nor does he feel concerned for indigo-planters, tea-planters, and other sahebs. But he does feel concerned for Government and for Government's prestige. Government is itself mad after that prestige. And does that prestige increase in consequence of such conduct as this? The writer demands an answer.

22. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 6th August says that Pandit Gauri Sankarjee built a *mundir* last year in Sitapur in Oudh. The Pandit had obtained orders from the Cantonment Magistrate permitting the Pujarees to perform their worship with songs and music till a late hour of the night.

On the 8th July last a Muhammadan head-constable suddenly came to the place and arrested the Panditjee. The Deputy Commissioner of Sherpur, after keeping him for five days in *hajut*, enlarged him on his giving a recognizance for Rs. 500.

The Deputy Commissioner, after a hearing extending over 14 days, and after having caused the Muhammadan head-constable and some other constables to give false evidence, found the Pandit guilty, and fined him Rs. 10.

(d)—Education.

23. The *Charu Mihir* of the 31st July says that if Government is really anxious to promote primary education in this country, it ought to show some encouragement to Sub-Inspectors of Schools, upon whose efforts the progress of that education must always depend. Government has now made over all its Sub-Inspectors, with the exception of a very few, to the District Boards, and they receive very niggardly treatment at the hands of the Boards. The food allowances which they receive from the Boards are fixed on a very miserable scale, and they have very little chance of getting large salaries. All this serves to discourage them, and their discouragement is sure to tell injuriously on the cause of primary education. Again, it is very difficult to transfer Board Sub-Inspectors from one place to another, and they cannot therefore acquire the sort of varied experience which service in many districts gives. The proposal to take back Sub-Inspectors into the service of Government, though supported by the Education Commission, has not yet been given effect to. But until this is done, people will not be able to appreciate Government's desire to promote primary education.

24. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 1st August has the following:—

Sir Charles Elliott's educational policy. It is a nice policy Sir Charles Elliott has adopted; and it is a policy which becomes Sir Charles alone. His Honour wants not to crush the people by brutal oppression; he wants to punish them by depriving them of their means of livelihood.

High education, which is the only means which middle-class people in this country possess for earning their livelihood, has become an eyesore to the Lieutenant-Governor. High education may not be so necessary to the artisan, manufacturing, and trading classes, for these classes do not, in consequence of the advancement of English trade in the country, now form any considerable part of the population of Bengal. There are, however, classes of people in Bengal, as for example the Kayastha caste, who can use only high education as a means of earning a livelihood; and this Kayastha caste forms a large part of the population of these provinces. The abolition of high education will leave these people without any means of livelihood. Again, abolition of

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high education will necessitate the filling up of all high offices under Government with Europeans and Eurasians. And will the people of India like this? All the learned professions too,—Law, Medicine, and Engineering—demand high education. It is easy to imagine, therefore, to what a pass the country will come if high education is abolished. Indeed, by proposing to strike a blow at high education, Sir Charles Elliott is going to deprive the middle classes of Bengal of their one means of livelihood.

His Honour has set his heart on primary education, that is to say on the education of those who are not much in need of education. It will do little harm to the labouring classes if they do not learn the alphabet or get arithmetical tables by heart. The little education which they now receive does them positive injury; for boys of the cultivating and artisan classes, as soon as they learn to read and write, consider manual labour a degradation. And this is one of the causes why native arts and industries are declining, making room for foreign manufactures. Sir Charles has certainly a secret motive in fostering primary education. On the one hand, he wants, by abolishing high education, to deprive the middle classes of their means of livelihood; on the other, he wants, by fostering primary education, to destroy the indigenous arts and industries, and thereby to make a larger market for foreign goods. Suppose His Honour succeeds in abolishing high education, will he give the boys who will receive primary education posts under Government, say, Clerkships, Munsifships, and Deputy Magistrateships? If His Honour is so much displeased with high education, why does he not remove all highly-educated men from Government service, and fill their places with men who have not gone beyond the primary education stage? Why does His Honour insist on the B. A. degree as a qualification for the candidates for Deputy Magistrateships? Has His Honour, again, held out any prospects to the boys who will receive primary education? Why, then does he evince such anxiety to encourage an education which will not benefit, but will rather harm, the people? The fact is that, for some inscrutable reason, the Lieutenant-Governor, wants to deprive both the middle classes and the masses of their bread. But "O Lord, a famished people as we are, we have had enough of oppression, and we do not want more. What have we done, that we should be deprived of the privilege of trial by jury and of high education, and be made to pay taxes for water? What makes you adopt such a harsh policy in regard to us? It is but a scanty livelihood that the Bengali makes, and what makes you snatch away from him even his humble meal? All in all in these provinces as you are, do you not feel a pang of conscience to deprive the people of even their mouthful of food? Why are you, O Representative of the liberal British nation, so narrow-minded? We have had enough. Let us have words of reassurance now."

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

25. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd August thinks that text-books for the middle vernacular and middle English scholarship examinations ought to be different for different educational circles. These examinations are not like the University examinations, so the text-books for them need not be the same everywhere. Again, as the number of authors is increasing, the adoption of different text-books in different circles will be a better means of encouraging them than the adoption of the same text-books throughout the country. Last year Dr. Martin acted on this principle, and prescribed different text-books for different circles. The educational authorities ought to see that bad books are not selected for these examinations, with the object of favouring the protégés of influential men.

HITAVADI,

26. The same paper has the following:—

The Devanagari character in the University examinations.

There is a law for punishing cruelty to animals, but apparently none for punishing cruelty to human beings. It has been ruled that the students appearing at the University examinations will, from 1896, have to write their Sanskrit answers in the Devanagari character. This rule will entail a world of trouble on the students. Moreover, in this country, Sanskrit has always been written in the Bengali character, and the practice had never any prejudicial effect on Sanskrit studies. The reason of the proposed change is therefore not very clear, and the writer will never approve of it.



27. A correspondent of the same paper says that, under the orders of Government, students are entitled to scholarships awarded for an examination only when the schools from which they appear teach up to the standard of examination. But the boys reading in the lower classes of the Pabna Higher English School, who appear at the middle vernacular scholarship examination, are awarded scholarships in contravention of this order. Great injustice is done by this to the middle vernacular schools, and Dr. Martin is asked to put it down. If boys from a higher class English school can obtain scholarships awarded for the middle vernacular scholarship examination, surely those from middle vernacular schools should be entitled to scholarships for the upper and lower primary examinations.

28. The *Sudhakar* of the 3rd August says that Mr. Rowe proved himself a very able, active, and conscientious Principal during the short time he served in that capacity in the Calcutta Madrassa. But, a true Englishman as he was, he had no wish to flatter or to be flattered, and this made him unpopular with the selfish leaders of the Musalman community, who do not like to see any improvement in the education of their co-religionists, lest their own glory should be dimmed by the appearance of brighter stars in their community.

Dr. Hoernle is a learned, but not an able man. He is fond of name, but he does not possess a proper sense of duty. There is much of the Nawab in his nature, and he is therefore easily able to please people similarly disposed. Mr. Rowe, on the other hand, was a man who found his best gratification in a proper discharge of his duties, without caring for what people might think or say of him.

The present mismanagement of the Madrassa is admitted on all hands. Government should therefore remove Dr. Hoernle from the Madrassa and appoint Mr. Rowe in his place.

29. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th August says that great harm is going to be done to the country by Sir Charles Elliott's advice to the District Boards not to spend anything upon high education until sufficient provision has been made for primary education. The writer has come to know that already some District Boards are making arrangements to retrench their expenditure upon middle schools, and some District Boards have gone even so far as to advise people to take upon themselves the entire burden of maintaining the English and middle schools.

Sir Charles was not in Bengal before he was appointed to its Lieutenant-Governorship, or he would have known that the middle schools teach boys of the poorer classes, such as peasants, shop-keepers, and petty traders, and that the poor middle classes in this country have no means of educating their boys except by sending them to middle schools. It is therefore impossible that these schools should be maintained by the people themselves and without help from the Boards. Indeed, if the Boards were to stop their aid to day, ninety-nine out of a hundred middle schools would be closed to-morrow, and thousands of village boys would be left to grow up ignorant and illiterate. The income of the District Boards generally is increasing; and their expenditure on every head is increasing; and only their educational expenditure remains stationary in many districts. This is greatly to be regretted. If men are allowed to grow up ignorant and illiterate like the lower animals, they may as well be left to roam about in forests and wildernesses. Educate the men, and they will themselves make their own roads, &c. The writer is glad that the Lieutenant-Governor has urged on the District Boards the necessity of spending largely on primary education, which seems at present to be neglected by them. The writer also agrees with the Lieutenant-Governor that the District Boards which have spent less than 10 per cent. of their income on education have failed to do equal justice to all the objects to which District Board funds should be applied. The increase in the income of the District Boards should be proportionately distributed over all the heads of expenditure. But in this respect Government is no less a delinquent than the District Boards. In 1888-89 Government made over the control of middle and the primary education to the District Boards, and with it the educational grant which it used to spend on those two

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

SUDHAKAR,  
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SANJIVANI,  
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kinds of education. It is undeniable that, during the five years which have since elapsed, Government's income has greatly increased. But has it made a proportionate increase of its educational grant to the District Boards? It would have looked well if the Lieutenant-Governor had himself set the example, and then told the Boards to follow it.

As the Lieutenant-Governor is in favour of primary education, it should be pointed out to him that the lower classes in the middle schools train up boys for the primary examinations, and those schools cannot therefore be regarded as being wholly unconnected with primary education. And as the *pathsala gurus* are now generally trained in the middle schools, the abolition of these schools would be a severe blow to primary education.

The Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason why local funds should be spent on an education which is not wanted by the majority of tax-payers. But is His Honour prepared to apply the same argument in all departments of the Administration? May it not be asked why Government entertains, at the cost of Hindu and Musalman tax-payers, a highly paid Christian priesthood for the benefit of a handful of Christians; and why it evinces such anxiety for the free education of poor European and Eurasian boys, while no grant-in-aid is made to any native school which does not levy fees upon its students? Does such partiality become the ruler of a country?

SOM PRAKASH,  
Aug. 6th, 1894.

30. The *Som Prakash* of the 6th August says that the Government in this country not having taken any notice of the conduct of Mr. Nesfield, the Director of Public Instruction, North-Western Provinces, in introducing school-books, and their keys, written by himself into all schools under him, and the attention of Parliament having been drawn to the matter, that officer has been forced to resign. In Bengal, too, books written by Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors, and Sub-Inspectors of Schools, and even by clerks in the Inspectors' offices, are appointed as text-books. It is said that this is due to the Central Text-book Committee being largely composed of educational officers. But this is shameful conduct on the part of the Committee. The writer will be sorry to see scenes like those of the North-Western Provinces enacted in Bengal.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BANGANIVASI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

31. The *Banganivasi* of the 3rd August writes as follows about the Dacca Municipal address to Sir Charles Elliott:—

The Dacca Municipal address to Sir Charles Elliott.

The giver of the address was Ray Iswar Chandra Sil, Bahadur, and the receiver of the address was Sir Charles Elliott, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The address itself was an extraordinary composition,—full of most true and wise statements,—and, from the rhetorician's point of view, it was covert irony clothed in the language of adulation. Elliott was the presiding god of this grand hymn, Ray Bahadur Sil was the officiating priest, and a few favourites of the Ray Bahadur were the assisting priests. Public money—the life-blood of the people—was the offering and the sacrifice, gaily-dressed Dacca was the spectators' gallery, and Sir Charles' eulogy was the *muntra*. Never before was an address like this given by anybody;—never before was an address full of such shameful and fulsome adulation received by anybody. After presenting his god with *padya* and *arghya*, the good, natured Sil Bahadur, with joined hands, and in language of humility, addressed him thus:—"Lord! your immeasurable justice makes no distinction of caste, colour, or creed. All your efforts are regulated by the one desire to do good to the people. The public therefore will forever remain grateful to you." These words, properly interpreted, mean that this is the god who laid the axe at the root of the system of jury trial, who in Darjeeling sang the praises of the "heathen Hindu and black Musalman," and who is extremely jealous of the native civilians.

In one part of his address, the Sil Bahadur said that there was nothing which had not received His Honour's attention. This, too, is perfectly true. For His Honour is that all-seeing ruler who is an opponent of high education, he is that impartial ruler who is an opponent of the cause of cow-preservation, he is that welfare-seeking ruler, who is the author of the Drainage Bill. He it is who has his eye on all things—canals, railways, and sanitation. Verily, the eloquence of this good-natured son of a Sil has struck us dumb.



32. The same paper has the following :—

Musalman burial grounds in Calcutta.

There is very great difference between a real desire to promote the health of the people and a determination to maintain one's *aid*. From the Lieutenant-Governor down to the petty peon, every one is anxious to improve the sanitation of the country and yet how little is done in practice towards that object! Eight thousand Musalmans, on an average, die in Calcutta every year and yet the place set apart for the burial of the Musalman dead is so limited in area, that not a single new grave can be dug without disturbing ten graves containing newly-buried dead bodies. And yet the Calcutta Municipality has rejected the application of the Musalmans, praying for the grant of additional lands for burial purposes. The municipality is bound to protect the health of the people, and yet it has rejected such a just prayer of the Musalmans.

BANGANIVASI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

33. The same paper has a cartoon representing a Tax-Commissioner's visit to the hut of a raiyat suffering from scarcity.

A cartoon about filtered water.

The Commissioner is a European, who is offering a glass of filtered water to the raiyat; and the raiyat and his family, consisting of his wife and children, are represented as greatly reduced and emaciated by starvation. The Tax-Commissioner has behind him, a Babu tax-collector with tax-bills in his hand. The letter-press contains the following :—'Starve, and drink filtered water, and pay taxes'.

BANGANIVASI.

34. The *Hitavadi*, of the 3rd August says that though neither the Health

The Calcutta Municipality's grant for the Haffkine experiment.

Officer of the Calcutta Municipality nor anybody else could say how far Dr. Haffkine's method of cholera inoculation was approved by science, the Calcutta Municipality has already sanctioned one lakh of rupees for conducting experiments in that method! The writer is surprised at this act of the fussy Commissioners. Having regard to the fact that Dr. Haffkine's method has found no favour in England, and that the Government of this country has made up its mind not to spend a cowrie for it, the Commissioners have not acted properly in freely spending the rate-payers' hard-earned money on its account.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

35. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 31st July says that in those places in the district of Burdwan where water can be

Use of the water from the Eden Canal.

had from the Eden Canal, sowing operations may be completed within the month of Sravan. But the agriculturists are so foolish, that they have not yet applied for the canal water, thinking that there will be rains yet and they will be spared the necessity of making the application. Many of them, again, do not apply, because they think that others will anticipate them, and that when these latter get the water, they will get it gratis. Whatever the cause may be, the fact is, that water for irrigation purposes is not being taken by the raiyats. In view of this state of things, Government officers should relax the rule requiring the payment of the canal rate in advance, and supply water to raiyats on application; for they can always realise the rate with the aid of the law.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
July 31st, 1894.

36. The *Sahachar* of the 1st August has the following :—

The present railway management in India.

In a country like India, of which the Government is English and the administration is conducted on the English system, the number of English officers must be large so long as its own people do not receive a thorough English training. And this is necessary in the interest of the country itself. But there are many things which do not require the employment of an English agency, and the work of the Railway Department is one of them. The last Railway Administration Report for India shows that during the year under report all Indian lines except one were worked at a profit. But the expenditure on these lines was neither raised nor reduced, and the question is that, considering the way in which they are managed, is it possible to make them more remunerative and less expensive than they are now? It is well known that Englishmen spend on the scale on which they can earn, and much of what they spend is unnecessary expenditure. When an Englishman opens a small shop, he

SAHACHAR,  
Aug. 1st, 1894.



first of all spends some money on furniture and advertisement, for he attaches great importance to outward appearance. Look at any railway line, and you will find at many stations palatial buildings, extensive godowns, and comfortable rooms for the use of officers, though not required by local necessity. But there are, at the same time, very few stations provided with waiting-rooms for the use of third and intermediate class passengers—for those, that is, who contribute the largest part of the income of the railways. It has now become a custom with Europeans in this country to employ in their houses a superfluous number of male and female servants, and they follow this custom in employing railway officers. But while spending much money uselessly in this way, they show niggardliness in doing things which are important and absolutely necessary. There are, for instance, only one *panipande* and only one *bheesti* at a large station like Burdwan, and in the hot weather the two men find it absolutely impossible to supply water to the thirsty passengers during the few short minutes that the trains stop there. But there are at all large stations a large number of *ferashes*, *ayahs*, and other servants, many of whom are not at all needed. The *ayahs*, who are supposed to look to the convenience of first and second class female passengers, pout their lips at the sight of native ladies, and demand *baksis* of them at every step. Much money is uselessly spent on account of petty servants of this class. Again, there are on all railway lines a number of unnecessary European and Eurasian officials, and quite a superfluous number of line inspectors, half of whom can be dismissed with advantage. There is extravagance in the Engineer's Department too. When the Company's rule was established in this country, its officers were supremely indifferent in the matter of expenditure, and the same indifference seems to characterize Europeans of the present day. Before they undertake any work, they must, first of all, appoint a number of men on large salaries. Look at the District Boards, and you will find there that Engineers on Rs. 1,000 a month are appointed to do what can be done satisfactorily by a Supervisor or an Assistant Engineer on Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 a month. The fact is, the Anglo-Indians cannot forego the habit of extravagance which has been handed down to them by their predecessors in the beginning of the Company's rule. When Lord Dalhousie first constructed railways in India, he had the military power of the empire chiefly in view, and the guarantee system was necessary then. But to keep up that system still is only to encourage extravagance, for both the directors and shareholders of railways know that the money guaranteed to them will not be taken away by anybody. The times are changing; the capitalists in England are now satisfied with 2 per cent.; and Government itself now pays interest at the rate of 3 per cent. on money borrowed by it. At such a time it behoves the latter to take up the management of all railways in its own hands. It is a great mistake to buy up a railway and then to make over its management to a Company, as was done in the case of the East Indian line. If the head office of a railway be in London, loss from exchange will be inevitable. Moreover, Indian railways ought to be supervised by men in India, and not by a set of retired Anglo-Indians who have settled in London. The guarantee system should be abolished, and all guaranteed lines should be taken up by Government itself. The expenditure on all State lines is on a lavish scale, and the officers of Government managing these lines do not consider it their duty to lighten the burdens of the tax-payers in any way. Of course, it is useless to expect any such thing from men who, in these hard days, have got their salaries increased under the pretext of securing an exchange compensation. Their one aim is to provide for themselves, their relatives, and their dependants. Go to Sealdah, and you will see a ball-room for the European and Eurasian employes of the Eastern Bengal line, and note that these latter indulge in picnics—which should be more correctly called *pick-Ind* (devouring India)—every year with money contributed by Hindus and Musalmans. They also indulge in horse-racing; and though there is no evidence to show that any of these railway officers possess horses of their own, a train was, on one occasion, detained for two hours in order that horses for these officers might be brought down from Barrackpore. Now, these things cannot happen under a proper supervision, and they did not happen so long as the line was under the management of Mr. Prestage. The fact is, that European officers care only for their money, and go home as soon as their pockets are filled. As they have no fear that the consequences of their acts will touch either themselves or their children, they do



not love to do anything that will make the railways as remunerative as they can be. Of course, when the Government of the country is English, the superintending agency at the top must be European. But Babu Ramgati Mukerji has shown that natives can manage railways; and management by native superintendents, native engineers, and native inspectors will be both efficient and economical. Of course, military necessity requires European drivers, but such necessity does not occur every day. There will therefore be no harm if all European drivers, with the exception of a few, are dismissed from the railway service. The plea of 'courage in emergency' cannot be urged on behalf of these drivers, for experience has shown that there is no distinction in this respect between natives and low-class Europeans. Native drivers do not touch spirituous liquor, and the recent collision at Sealdah would not have happened if there had been native drivers on the trains at the time. Nevertheless, as the authorities have their own views on the subject, let them do what they like regarding the appointment of natives as drivers. But the time has certainly come for appointing natives in the railway service generally. If these suggestions are carried out, Government's income from railways will greatly increase. Already Government makes a large profit from railways, but its railways are managed with great extravagance, and that extravagance should be stopped.

## (h)—General.

37. A correspondent of the *Charumihir* of the 31st July says that though the sale of quinine by post offices has done great good to the public, many post masters do not keep a supply of the drug in order to avoid the increased work, which its sale entails on them. Thus, quinine cannot now be had at many mufassal branch post offices in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

CHARUMIHIR,  
July 31st, 1894.

38. The *Hitavadi*, of the 3rd August has the following about the case of Babu Fatik Lal Mukerjee, clerk of the Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore:—

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 3rd 1894.

The case of the clerk of the Cantonment Magistrate at Barrackpore. By the favour of the high minded Mr. Marson, the higher authorities have come to know of the fearful plot which was formed against Fatik Babu, and of the preparations which were made to bring him to his senses for the audacity which he had displayed by lodging the complaint in a court of justice that he had been assaulted by a saheb soldier.

As the facts of the case have been already published in this paper, the public of course read those facts. For this, however, the big sahebs have become very angry, and as they have not been able to procure the dismissal of Fatik Babu, their stock of patience is very nearly exhausted! They are unable any longer to hide the rancour which they cherish in their hearts.

Fatik Babu has been fined Re. 1 for having made undue delay in answering a letter. But it is clear to the writer from the papers relating to the Cantonment Magistrate, which were published in this paper, that Fatik Babu was guilty of no offence. The Magistrate himself says—"Unless I write the reply no clerk can forward it, so I do not see why my clerk should be blamed for my acts." This is really the fact of the case, and if the Cantonment Committee had proceeded in the matter coolly, and not been anxious to find out pretexts for punishing Fatik Babu, the unfortunate clerk would not have been punished at all. But it is his good fortune that, though fallen within the power of such a clique, he has been so lightly punished. As those who are against him are big soldiers, his innocence counts for nothing. It was, perhaps thought that if he was not punished, the prestige of the big men would suffer, and so the proceedings of the Cantonment Committee had to be altered. They say in Bengali that a kite pouncing down will not rise without taking at least a twig; and on this principle the *kerani* Babu has been fined Re. 1. And it will be well for him if no further punishment is inflicted on him. The life of a *kerani* can never be safe unless he learns to put up with uncalled for or unjustifiable punishment.



An editor cannot see things behind the screen. He only sees the acting that goes on on the outside stage. The inner mystery might be open to the power that is conferred by *Yoga*, but the writer does not possess that power. Are such things possible under English rule and so near Calcutta? Nevertheless, it seems as if some one is distinctly telling the writer that the facts of the case are as follows:—

"The Cantonment Magistrate's clerk has been fined one rupee. The word *dismissed* in the proceedings of the Cantonment Committee of the 8th May last (published in the *Hitavadi* of the 1st June 1894), has been changed into *punished*, and the punishment has been inflicted in the shape of a fine of one rupee as stated above. The proposal about the substitution of the word *punished* for the word *dismissed*, has been carried by a majority, though it was vehemently opposed by the Cantonment Magistrate.

Mr. Marson declined to answer when asked whether he had supplied the information to the Editor of the *Hitavadi* newspaper. The Cantonment Committee asked Mr. Marson to prosecute the *Hitavadi*, which he declined to do, because in his opinion the *Hitavadi* has done some public good by giving publicity to such scandalous proceedings, and that nobody should be prosecuted for telling the truth."

Is this dreaming or raving? Or is it distorted truth proceeding from some correspondent's heated brain? The writer never believed that such things would be possible in the dominions of the Maharani, the Empress of India, at the latter end of the nineteenth century. He is not in the least concerned about the *Hitavadi*, or about the personal feelings of its Editor. But the mere thought of an Indian subject of the Maharani being made the object of so much rancour without any cause whatever, has astounded him. We are a loyal people, and we have learnt to put up with the whip. Isvara Gupta truly said "we never learnt to attack or retaliate." What more shall we say? To please their subjects is the primary duty of all rulers of men, and the responsibilities of those men are of a serious nature, who, be their official position high or low, are ruling over us in the name of the Maharani. It is extremely reprehensible for them to do things militating against the Government's duty of pleasing its subjects.

We have one thing to say in conclusion. O high-minded Mr. Marson, Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore, we will to-day present you with the gratitude of our hearts. You are great, high-minded, justice-loving and liberal in your disposition. You have enhanced the glory of Great Britain in the eyes of the people of Bengal, you never shrink from quarrelling with your very powerful countrymen for the sake of a poor man without friends and riches, and you never learnt to disregard justice out of undue love for your own race. You are a true Englishman, you have realised the truth that the Indian subjects of the Maharani also deserve to be ruled well, and that it is a sin of the blackest character to trample them under foot, and having realised that truth, you have shown the courage that is required to act up to it. All this proves your high birth and liberal heart. Bewitched by your virtues, we are to-day offering you our hearts' gratitude. The Indians would have had nothing to fear if the majority of the officials here had been like you. We hope that your good conduct will be imitated on all sides.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

39. The same paper has the following:—

A grog-shop near a school at Dinapore.

At Dinapore, a saheb has opened a grog-shop near a school. The Cantonment Magistrate who gave the saheb permission to open the shop, does not either know the law or care to obey it. The law prohibits the opening of grog-shops near schools and in any other place, against the wishes of the local public. Will the Lieutenant-Governor now look to the matter?

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 4th 1894.

40. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 4th August says that

Want of a post-office in a village in the Rangpur district.

probably an enquiry is on foot, in connection with the prayer of the people of Haridevpur, in the Rangpur district, for the establishment of a post-office in their village, as to the average number of letters, &c., which are put into the letter-box there. But the authorities will learn nothing from such an enquiry; for all who are able to do so, post their letters at Rangpur, Syampur,



or Badarganj, because the letter-box at Haridevpur is cleared only twice a week.

41. The *Uchit Vakta* of the 4th August says that it is understood that the Commissioner's final report on the Bareilly memorial is quite in favour of the cow-killing practice. If that is really the case, the Hindus will never cease quarrelling with the Musalmans, who will outrage their feelings by killing cows before their eyes.

If Sir Charles Crosthwaite wants to reconcile the Hindus with the Musalmans, he should abolish the cow-slaughter practice in Bareilly.

42. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 5th August brings to notice the following two irregularities in the delivery of letters, &c., from the Srinagar Post-office, in the Dacca district:—

(1) Babu Dinanath Sen, Inspector of Schools, was at Srinagar on the 6th and 7th July last, but his letters were returned by the Srinagar Post-office on those dates.

(2) A copy of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 24th June last, addressed to the Circle Pandit of Kaykirtan, was returned, the peon reporting that he could not find out the addressee, though the latter has been living in the place for many years, and has been regularly receiving his copy of the paper.

43. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th August says that, of the five members who compose the Viceroy's Executive Council, Sir Alexander Miller, the Law Member, is a genuine Englishman, but has long become an Anglo-Indian by coadjutorship with Lord Lansdowne; Mr. Westland, the Finance Member, is a Civilian and an old Anglo-Indian; the Public Works Member Sir Charles Pritchard is also a Civilian and an old Anglo-Indian; the Military Member, General Brackenbury, has also become an Anglo-Indian; and the Home Member, Sir Antony MacDonnell, is the prince of Anglo-Indians. So Lord Elgin has to pull with this *panchayet* of Anglo-Indian members. The other day a meeting of the Council lasted for a whole day. What might the business be which required such long deliberation? It is rumoured that Lord Elgin is not pulling well with his Councillors; that the members in a body have determined to bring His Lordship over to their views; and that His Excellency is not yet prepared to go against his own conscience. It is also rumoured that the Viceroy has constantly to refer differences to the Secretary of State by telegraph. But what can His Excellency expect from Mr. Fowler, surrounded as he is by Anglo-Indian advisers? The fact is, that unless Lord Elgin acts with firmness and resolutely adheres to his own principles, it will be not only impossible for him to get his Councillors to take his own view of things, but he will himself be probably led away by them. Lord Ripon was supported throughout his administration by his Law Member, Mr. Ilbert, and yet he was placed in the greatest difficulties. Lord Elgin will not get the assistance of a single member of his Council. His own firmness will be his one support, though, of course, all India will be at his back if he can support himself.

44. The *General and Gauhariasfi* of the 8th August says that the unemployed Musalman graduates of Bengal will shortly call a meeting for the purpose of sending a deputation to Sir Charles Elliott's Government, in order to draw its attention to the fact that the Musalman graduates do not get Government posts owing to the Government circulars regarding the employment of Musalmans in the public service being kept as a dead letter by its subordinate officers.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

45. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 31st July thinks that the proposed amendment of the Civil Procedure Code, giving the defendant's counsel or pleader the right to address the court on the whole case, should be made more explicit than it is. It is necessary that the law should expressly provide that

UCHIT VAKTA,  
Aug. 4th, 1894.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Aug. 5th, 1894.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 5th, 1894

GENERAL AND  
GAUHARIASFI,  
Aug. 8th, 1894.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI  
July 31st, 1894.



after the plaintiff's witnesses have given their evidence, the defendant's counsel or pleader should tender the evidence, oral or documentary, on behalf of his client, and then address the court on the whole case.

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 31st, 1894.

46. The *Charu Mihir* of the 31st July has felt alarmed at the Lieutenant-Governor's statement at Dacca, that the proposed drainage legislation has for its object the

Sir Charles Elliott on drainage. re-excavation of silted up rivers, because the re-excavation of silted-up rivers must be a very big affair. The Lieutenant-Governor says that a rise in the prices of food-grains has put money in the hands of the agricultural classes; but agriculturists are, as a matter of fact, poverty-stricken, involved in debt, and unable to procure two meals a day. If Government wants to impose a new tax, let it say so plainly. The Lieutenant-Governor can do anything, but the people will curse him if he imposes a new cess upon them. Will the Hon'ble Surendranath Banerji, who approved of Government's drainage scheme at the Belvedere Conference, now keep himself silent?

SAHACHAR,  
Aug. 1st, 1894.

47. The *Sahachar* of the 1st August refers to the proposed legislation on the subject of the restitution of conjugal rights, and remarks as follows:—

The proposed amendment of the law relating to the restitution of conjugal rights.

As the law now stands, a woman against whom her husband has obtained a decree ordering her to live with him, may, on refusal to obey that order, be sent to a civil jail for three months. But it is now proposed to do away with even this mild punishment, it being improper in the opinion of Sir Alexander Miller to force a woman who does not love her husband to live with him. This is the English view, but even in England there was extensive agitation two years ago because a man could not succeed in taking his wife home with the aid of the law. Though Christianity looks upon marriage as a sacrament, it is now regarded in Christian Europe and America as a purely secular contract. But with the Hindus, the relation created by marriage subsists after death, and they do not therefore approve of the proposed change in the law. Why attack Hindu society in this way? The effect of the proposed legislation will be to encourage disobedience and wickedness on the part of wives. It is proposed to leave it to the discretion of the courts whether or not women refusing to live with their husbands should be punished with imprisonment. This means, that the only thing which hitherto kept many women in the path of duty will now be removed.

SAHACHAR.

48. The same paper has the following:—

The proposed drainage legislation.

The writer had thought that a visit to Backergunge would cure the Lieutenant-Governor of his drainage hobby. His Honour himself admits that rivers have silted up in many places, and he has seen with his own eyes how whole districts are submerged during the rains. How and where, then, are drains to be made? It is necessary to re-excavate silted-up rivers, but to supply the entire country with drains is impossible.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

49. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd August has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor on the Sanitary Drainage Bill.

It rarely falls to the lot of the writer to praise Sir Charles Elliott, and he is therefore glad that His Honour has given him an opportunity of praising him. He cannot help praising the Lieutenant-Governor for having replied to the criticisms of the public on the Sanitary Drainage Bill. As a ruler of the country, His Honour can do anything he likes, but the people have felt themselves flattered by the condescension he has shown by replying to their objections. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will think on the subject once more after his arguments in favour of the measure have been criticised by the public.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 4th, 1894.

50. The *Bangavasi* of the 4th August has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor on the drainage question.

We had expected that on a fuller consideration of the subject than His Honour had yet given to it, Sir Charles Elliott would give up his drainage hobby. But an Englishman's *zid* is something that never leaves him. This is specially the case with Englishmen like Sir Charles Elliott, whose official position enables them get their *zid* borne out. A perusal of His Honour's Dacca



and Barisal speeches has convinced us that the Lieutenant-Governor will know no rest until he has passed a drainage law for Bengal.

His Honour will be able to give effect to his drainage scheme, for he now possesses sovereign power, and is strongly convinced that obstructed drainage is the first and foremost cause of the present insanitary condition of Bengal. And it is this conviction that will lead him to undertake sanitary drainage for the province, for the protection and benefit of its people. It may be that this belief of his is mistaken; it may be that ten or twenty years hence very clear evidence, in abundance, will be forthcoming to shatter this belief; but nothing can shake or remove it now. And because it is so, we are filled with uneasiness and alarm.

No clear indications have yet been received as to the sort of drainage which His Honour means to introduce in the province. All that the public have been yet able to learn in this connection is that Sir Charles has come to know that want of good drainage has made Bengal a hot-bed of malaria; that large numbers of people are every year carried off by malaria in the districts of Nadia and Jessore; that the country can be freed from malaria, its health can be improved, and the lives of the people can be saved by reclaiming existing and obstructed drains and excavating new ones; and that a new cess should be imposed on the people for the purpose of raising the funds that will be required for the prosecution and maintenance of drainage works.

Now Bhadra, Aswin, and Kartik are the three months in the year in which malaria rages most fearfully in Bengal. These are also the months in which the *aman* crop is grown in the province. Now anybody who has the least knowledge of this country is aware that the *aman* cannot, and does not, thrive at all unless there is an abundance of water during these months in the paddy fields and near the roots of the paddy plants. And this condition is indispensable even in the case of paddy crops grown in low-lying marshy lands. It is well known that, to prevent the escape of water, which is so necessary for their crops, the cultivators raise strong *ails* (ridges) on all sides of the paddy fields, and that in years of drought these fields are irrigated with water brought from distant tanks. We here speak of the *aman* only, that being the principal food-crop of the people of Bengal. But the case is the same with the *rabi* crops also. In Bengal the best *rabi* lands are those which remain under water for some months of the year, and are enriched by the deposit which is left thereon by the turbid water which accumulates in the rainy season. And everybody knows that the *rabi* grown on lands which do not possess that advantage shows but a poor outturn. Now, we ask Sir Charles Elliott whether it is his intention to include the *aman* and *rabi* lands also in the tracts which are meant to be brought under the scope of the proposed drainage law. There is hardly a village in Bengal in which the *aman* cultivation is not carried on. Again, therefore, do we ask if the arbiter of our destinies—the Lieutenant-Governor that is—has come to believe that the health of the country cannot be promoted without providing paddy lands with drains. Will Government give sanitary drainage to the country even at the cost of doing away with the cultivation of its food-crops? We, of course, put the question on the supposition that the kind of drainage contemplated by Government will admit of a successful prosecution. But those that have paid the smallest attention to the condition of this country, will admit that it is not possible to drain off the surplus water of the paddy fields or of village sites in that way. If, instead of trying to give the benefit of a real drainage to the country, the object of Government in connection with this drainage question be simply to write rose-coloured reports, to delude the ignorant by means of empty professions, to show to the members of the British Parliament that the Government of Bengal is trying its best to protect the health of its people; or if the object of the proposed law be to enhance in the eyes of the sovereigns of Europe the reputation of the British Government for attending to the welfare of its subjects, we shall say nothing on the subject. For doomed as we are, die we shall, and there is no use doing or saying anything which may cast a stain on the name and fame of our earthly providence—the British Government.

Will the Lieutenant-Governor, who is to us as mighty as the lion, be able to cope with the English merchants who are ever clamouring for railway extension in India? It is the railways that have principally obstructed the natural



drainage of the country. This is clearly shown by the frequent recurrence of floods in the country, and the frequent breaches in the railway lines consequent on excessive rainfall. His Honour can, for he has the power, slay the thrice-slain people of Bengal, and levy a sanitary cess by selling off their goods and chattels. But will he be able, in cases where railways and public roads obstruct the drainage of the country, to remove the obstruction by removing the railway line, or directing the construction, across roads, of an increased number of culverts?

We are humble subjects of the British Government, unable to understand big public questions, and if there had been no talk of putting on a new tax on the starving people of this country, we should have probably made no attempt to understand this question of sanitary drainage. But the thought of such a ruinous tax has filled us with deep anxiety and apprehension, and therefore it is that we have let our views be known to the Lieutenant-Governor. We hope His Honour will listen to us.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 4th, 1894.

51. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th August thanks the Government for proposing an amendment of section 260 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The proposed amendment of section 260 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SAHACHAR,  
Aug 1st, 1894..

52. The *Sahachar* of the 1st August has the following:—

The hanging of the Tongal General.

A muchhi named Prayagnarayan, made love with another muchhi's wife. But after some time the woman cast him off, and in jealousy he stabbed her to death. But while stabbing her, he inflicted such a wound on himself, that for five days his life was despaired of. His case was tried by the Bombay High Court, and he was sentenced to death. In the meantime Government was moved for a reprieve, and the medical officer reported that, as the prisoner's wound was of a serious nature and he was reduced to a skeleton, it would not look well to hang him. So the sentence of death passed on him was commuted to one of imprisonment for life. Now come to Manipur. The Tongal General was 87 years of age, unable to move about. Lord Cross was disposed to show him mercy, but Lord Lansdowne was for putting him to death. Now imagine the scene that followed:—An old Brahman, unable to see and to move, was seated on a chair in order to be hanged! The man had no life—he had only a little breath in his body.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGANIVASI,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

53. The *Banganivasi* of the 3rd August refers to the prevalence of distress and scarcity in the districts of Faridpur and Tippera, and asks Government to spend money for the relief of the people from the proceeds of the Famine Fund. Government holds the people's money in trust, and ought to return it at the time of their need. How long will it remain indifferent in the matter? Let it now fearlessly come forward to protect the lives of its subjects. The people of India—the people of Bengal—are not ungrateful. They do not hesitate even to sacrifice their lives for the good of their rulers. It will be a stain on the good name of Government if the loyal people of Bengal die of starvation in this empire of the Goddess Lakshmi. Unless relief funds are started in Tippera and Faridpur without delay, a good many people will lose their lives in the course of the next week. O kind-hearted Government, or kind-hearted Sir Charles Elliott, have mercy on your subjects and save their lives.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 5th, 1894.

54. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th August says that the Lieutenant-Governor was greatly offended with those people who told him at the darbar in Faridpur that, during the present distress, Government had not given the requisite relief, and that even the local officials admitted the existence of severe scarcity. His Honour said that not only was the scarcity not so severe, but no local officer had said that it was so. And he did not therefore hesitate to call these people liars, or fail to remind the pleaders of the



law, and advise them accordingly. Cannot the Chhota Lat be prosecuted for libel?

All who have any personal knowledge, not excepting Government officers, have admitted the existence of a severe scarcity in Faridpur, and the Divisional Commissioner alone has suppressed the truth. The press is criticising Sir Charles' conduct at Faridpur, and is clearly proving that official reports support the private gentlemen with whom His Honour spoke.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

55. The *Charu Mihir* of the 31st July has the following:—

Political discontent in the lower strata of the Indian population.

Many officers of Government think that there is no political discontent in the lower strata of the Indian population. This means that the lower classes of the people are not moved or influenced by the political agitations of the educated classes, and that whatever discontent there is in the country is confined among the professional agitators. The leading Anglo-Indian newspapers, which are the mouth-pieces of the officials, also echo these false views, and thereby give wide currency to them. Poverty has now invaded every grade of Indian society. The zamindars, with few exceptions, are in straitened circumstances; the middle classes are not well off; while the condition of the lower classes is extremely deplorable. The lower classes formerly lived by arts and manufactures, and with the decline of these they have been thrown into poverty. The condition of the agricultural classes is not good. It is true the prices of food-grains have increased, but as the rents due to zamindars have also increased, the rice in prices have in no way benefited the raiyats. The raiyats have, moreover, cultivated a taste for European articles of luxury, and most of their earnings is spent in procuring these. They are thus in as indebted a condition as before. Many of them are no better than slaves of the money-lenders. Under these circumstances, the failure of a single crop is enough to bring on famine and scarcity. And who can believe that the lower classes will not be agitated by such grinding poverty? The expenses of litigation as well as the complicated procedure of the civil and criminal law add to the discontent of the lower classes. Suitors have to attend courts for days together, even in cases which can be decided or disposed of within a few hours. And their absence from their places of business or labour means loss of income, which again, means suffering for themselves and their families. The duty of getting their deeds registered also entails great distress and suffering on the lower classes. Police oppression also increases their discontent. It is wellknown how the visit of an investigating police officer to a village creates discontent and unrest in it. Taxes, both direct and indirect, also press heavily on the lower classes. The chaukidari-tax has increased the troubles of the poor. The increase of the salt duty also tells heavily on them. Government never enquires into the condition of these classes, nor does it think it a delightful occupation to hear the stories of their distress. Its officials therefore delude themselves into the belief that the lower classes are happy and contented. In no country do the masses commence an agitation, it is those that feel for the masses that do so. And when they begin, the masses join them. This is what is practically taking place in this country also. The lower classes in this country have not, as a matter of fact, kept aloof from the agitations of the educated classes.

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 31st, 1894.

56. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 31st July has the following:—

Increase of village *daladali* under English rule.

*Daladali* with all its attendant evils, anger and jealousy, slander and abuse, falsehood, violence and litigation, now prevails in almost every village in the country. The very appearance of the village is changed in which *daladali* prevails. In such villages people do not eat in each other's house, regard near relations as strangers, and look upon mortal enemies as intimate friends. These people are not heard to talk of the *Shastras*, their one delight consists in talking about quarrels, and in forming plans for doing mischief. There all distinctions between *bhadra* and *abhadra*, high and low, disappear, and high caste Brahmans enter into intimate friendship with low caste men, and low caste men, instigated by the *bhadra* loq feel no fear or hesitation in abusing or speaking disrespectfully of very respectable people. Even zanana ladies and school-boys catch

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the *daládali* contagion, and forsake their respective duties under its influence. *Dharma* flies from such villages, and where *daládali* prevails people do not hesitate even to murder, and quarrels and affrays about village roads, cattle, and such like things, are every day occurrences. But why is *daládali* so common now? The cause is to be found in English education, English manners, and the English administrative system. Formerly there were in every village, pargana and district, one or two families who were respected and regarded as leaders by the whole village, pargana and district. But, now-a-days even a *Muchi* and a *Muddafaras* are Babus, and everybody regards himself a very important person and independent of every body else. If there be in any village a person who is respected by all his fellow villagers, it becomes the look-out of the village youth who has received some English education, to see him insulted and disgraced. Some fuss-loving nobodies, such as are now found in all villages, become his partisans, and the young man commences writing anonymous letters in English to the Magistrate against his respected neighbour. He is probably employed as a school-master in a neighbouring village, and he writes his letters on holidays, which amount to nearly six months in the year. As soon as a letter or two of his take effect, he acquires a reputation in the village, and gets quite a party of his own. It is in this way that ordinary *daládali* is caused. And the kind of *daládali*, namely, the *daládali* which is the outcome of quarrels between agnatic relations, is also indirectly caused by English education. That education disposes people to be discourteous and disrespectful to their elders, and makes them unwilling to regard any but themselves and their wives as their own. The progress of these English ideas is introducing confusion into the native society, making the ties which have hitherto kept it compact, weak.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Aug. 1st, 1894.

57. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 1st August has the following:—

Seraj-ud-dowla's impartial treatment of Hindus and Musalmans.

The English historian has painted Seraj-ud-dowla as a cruel oppressor of men. But did Seraj possess nothing to which one can point for the purpose of arousing a little sympathy for him? It is many years since Seraj's rule came to an end. That rule was succeeded by the rule of the John Company. That too, is gone, and we are now living under a rule that is without compare. We are now living under the peaceful rule of the Empress Victoria, and so happy are we that we have become objects of envy to many nations of the world. But owing to a want of foresight on the part of the officials, the profound peace enjoyed by the people under British rule is occasionally disturbed and interrupted. Admitting, for the sake of pleasing many people, that the rule of Seraj-ud-dowla was extremely oppressive, though as a matter of fact it was not so, we ask, whatever the character of that rule might have been, why do we not now enjoy the privileges that we enjoyed under Seraj? In spite of the oppression that marked the reign of Seraj we feel disposed to bless that unfortunate Nawab. Though a Musalman, Seraj never failed to appreciate and reward merit in the Hindus. Not only Seraj but Aurungzebe, a more determined enemy of the Hindus, than whom no prouder ever filled the throne of Delhi, never hesitated to appoint them to high posts in the public service. In the time of Seraj-ud-dowla, Durlabhram was the prime minister, Mohanlal was a commander in the army, Jagat Sett was the finance minister, and Nanda Kumar was the foudar of Hooghly. There were many more Hindu officers besides these. Some of them were the trusted and favourite advisers of the Nawab, who consulted them in many matters. Why do we then forget the few good qualities which were possessed by Seraj, though it is undeniable that he had numberless faults? It is a virtue to evince pity and sorrow for a sinner, and this is particularly the case when even a single faint ray of light is found to illumine the dark and dismal path of life he trod. Should not the existence of that ray of light, however faint, be admitted, and sympathy shown to the sinner? His equal and impartial treatment of Hindu and Musalman constitutes almost the only relieving feature of Seraj's dark and dismal life, and makes us disposed to pity him. The Hindu and the Musalman enjoyed equal ascendancy under the rule of Seraj-ud-dowla. But under British rule the distinction of black and white is still in full force. Under Seraj there were not as now so frequent quarrels between Hindus and Musalmans. There was sympathy and affection between the two peoples. Who shall say why quarrels



between them are so frequent now? The officials of Government do nothing to settle these differences between the two peoples. Do the representatives of Government ever attend to these internal dissensions? One is rendered speechless in admiration at the spectacle of the loving treatment accorded to the Hindus by that much abused Nawab, Seraj-ud-dowla.

58. The *Sudhakar* of the 3rd August has the following:—

SUDHAKAR,  
Aug. 3rd, 1894.

The question of Musalman improvement.

In our boyhood we had a great aversion to British rule, because we were taught by our teachers who interpreted the principles of Islam in a very narrow spirit, that English education was opposed to the laws laid down by Muhammadan Doctors, and that a Musalman could not respect a Christian Government. Our education was then too imperfect to enable us to rise superior to such teaching, for Bengali literature could then show few thoughtful books, and the really precious and thoughtful books in Arabic and Persian literature were not taught to us. The Musalman bigot, though professing a far nobler religion, is as much opposed to the reading of thoughtful books as the Brahman bigot. He is not aware that for catholicity of spirit Islam is unsurpassed in the world. We, too, were blind to this noble trait in Islam on account of our defective teaching. All the Maulvis trained in the Madrassa are, perhaps, on account of their defective education, as incompetent to appreciate British rule as we ourselves once were. It is therefore for Government and the educated Musalmans to see that the Musalman community is enabled by a proper religious and political education to appreciate the English Government which is a helper and protector of Islam, instead of disliking it as a Christian Government.

As a proof of Government's respect for the Musalmans, and its desire to improve their present degraded condition, Sir Alfred Croft's letter of the 25th June 1894, and Dr. Martin's letter of the 23rd June 1894, advocating a larger employment of Musalmans in the Educational Service, are next given, and the writer goes on as follows:—

Brother Musalmans! see how Christian officials sympathise with Musalmans in their distress, and how heartily they desire to improve their position. But what can they do when many Musalmans cannot bear to see any improvement in the position of their co-religionists? They do not like to see other stars rise in their community, lest their own lustre should pale. Far from protecting their co-religionists from oppression committed upon them by others, they refuse to lend them any help whatever. Again, any prospect of good to the Musalmans fills the Hindus with heart-burning, and causes them to clamour so fearfully, that any official who wishes to do good to the Musalmans has to draw back in fear. And even if a few officials are found bold enough to persevere in their good intention, all their efforts to benefit the Musalmans are nullified by their Hindu subordinates. We, however, firmly believe that Government will not see us fettered with the chain of Aryan slavery, and we have, as our readers see, good reasons for entertaining this belief.

We humbly entreat Government to provide for the employment of a proper proportion of Musalman officers in the police, postal, and railway services. We are sure that appointments are now made to subordinate posts not according to fitness, but according to interest.

59. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 8th August says that the

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 8th, 1894.

Mr. Cotton the father, and Mr. Cotton, the son, on the Civil Service question.

Bengal Government's report on the Civil Service examination question, opposing Mr. Paul's proposal, was signed by Mr. Cotton, the Chief Secretary to the Bengal Government. But the Chief Secretary's son, Mr. Cotton the Barrister, exhorted the Howrah people at a meeting the other day to go on agitating against the Secretary of State's decision, until they got the privilege of simultaneous examinations. It is clear, therefore, that either the father and the son really differ in opinion on this question, or the father has had, for the sake of his service, to act contrary to his conviction in signing the report. The writer cannot say which of the two surmises is correct; but it is certain that to make a livelihood is the hardest of necessities, and that to keep oneself in service, one must often act wrongly. Mr. Cotton the Secretary is known not to approve of Sir Charles Elliott's narrow policy in several matters; but he has, nevertheless, to support it for the sake of his service.



DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
(CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 9th, 1894.

60. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 9th August says that, according to certain newspapers, Her Majesty would have done exceedingly well if she had added an Indian name to the many Christian names she has given to her great-grandson, the future Emperor of India. If Her Majesty's attention had been drawn to the point in time, she would certainly have done it. The name of the Persian poet Sadi was introduced into the Carnot family of France, because one of the Carnots was very fond of the poet. And as Her Majesty loves her Indian subjects so much, she might introduce an Indian name into her family, if only the point were mentioned to her. It is not perhaps too late yet to give an Indian name to the new prince. He may still be named Prince Edward Albert Indian, &c. Will no one draw Her Majesty's attention to this?

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

SRIHATTAVASI,  
First fortnight of  
Sraavan.

61. The *Srihattavasi* for the first fortnight of Sraavan says that a very objectionable practice obtains in the criminal court of Karimganj in the Sylhet district. Cases between natives and Europeans are in the first instance referred for report to the Europeans who are themselves involved in them. The writer cannot say under what law this practice has grown up, but he hopes that the present worthy Deputy Commissioner will put a stop to it.

SRIHATTAVASI,

62. The same paper says that, in his extreme anxiety to save Government's money, Mr. Driberg has kept vacant certain posts of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police, though the efficiency of the Police Department has been greatly affected in consequence. But Mr. Driberg cares little for that, so long as he can earn praise and promotion for himself. Another instance of Mr. Driberg's parsimony at the expense of police efficiency and integrity is that when, owing to scarcity in Cachar during the last two years, it was proposed to give the constables an allowance of Re. 1 per month per head, Mr. Driberg consented to give such allowance only to the constables in the guards, and not to those who stayed at the thanas. In refusing the allowance to the latter, Mr. Driberg probably said to himself: "A constable at the thana earns from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 per month over and above his pay, by taking bribes; well, Government has no objection to that, because that saves Government Re. 1 per month per constable."

SRIHATTAVASI,

63. The same paper has the following English article:—  
"We are surely fallen on evil times. The *Assam Gazette*, bearing date July 7, has brought us a piece of declaration, the like of which we do not remember to have ever come across in any official gazette either here or elsewhere in India. For some time, and we extremely regret to say this, it has been our painful duty to notice that some evil genius seems to have possessed the authorities in Shillong, and that they are carrying out their policy with an amount of rigour which it is not possible for us to condemn here too strongly. The declaration referred to, is as follows:—

"WHEREAS it appears to the Chief Commissioner of Assam that land is required to be taken by the Government at the public expense for public purposes, viz, for improving sanitary condition of the Karimganj head-quarters bazar \* \* \* it is hereby declared that for the above purpose a piece of land, measuring more or less 7.75 acres \* \* \* is required. This declaration is made under the provisions of section 6, Act I of 1894, to all whom it may concern." From the above declaration it appears that the Government acquires the land in question with the view to improve its sanitary condition. Now, in the first place, we intend to submit to the Government that, if improvement of sanitary condition is to be considered a public purpose, we do not think that any private land in the province is safe, and for aught we know about sanitation, we can safely assert without any fear of contradiction, that lots of villages are to be found all over the province worse in point of sanitation, and is the Government prepared to acquire all of them? If not, it is but natural for the people to think that it is not sanitation, but something else is moving the Government in this connection. But be that as it may, we should like to enquire in the second place whether any notice was served on the



proprietors and other people concerned, to improve its sanitation? If that was not done, we must say that all sense of decency seems to have deserted our rulers in Assam. We are informed that a notice was actually served on the people named above to carry out certain reforms within a year from the date of the receipt of the notice, and they were also threatened with confiscation of their lands if those reforms are not attended to. We give below a list of the sanitary reforms that they were called upon to carry out.

1. To level and metallise the bazar land with a view to prevent there being any mud and dirt.
2. To construct a sufficient number of pukka drains for the passage of the water.
3. To open latrines for public convenience.
4. To appoint mehters to sweep the bazar land every day.
5. To provide pure drinking water for the bazar people by excavating a sufficient number of tanks and wells.
6. To attend to other things relating to health.

In short, the notice required the proprietors to change their common bazar into a fairy land full of all the comforts which our modern civilizing agencies can give. Thanks to the authorities that they did not want waterworks and gas light, the former of which they have forced upon the Sylhet Municipality with disastrous results. One thing that has exercised us much is that how could the Government in the face of this notice publish the declarations alluded to above? The notice appears to proceed from the Local Board. May we be permitted to ask whether this very Board serving the notice received something by way of local rates for these very lands? If so, have they done anything to improve its sanitary condition? If not, they surely failed in their duty. It is surprising that the Government without waiting for one year as intimated in the notice and without hearing the parties interested in the bazar land should acquire it. We are not sure that the Government is aware of this notice, and we are rather inclined to think that either through ignorance or through inadvertence they have committed the mistake, and as soon as the mistake is pointed out, they would rectify it and restore public confidence. The conduct of the Government in this connection, to speak the least of it, is certainly impolitic, and we therefore beg to draw the special attention of the Officiating Chief Commissioner, Mr. Lyall, for whom we have every respect, to this declaration, and request his favour to cancel it without delay, directing the Local Board to see that necessary reforms are introduced in the bazar.

Surely people will bless him if they and their properties are let alone."

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

CALCUTTA,

*The 11th August 1894.*



